

**The Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson****Directions**

This homework assignment is a “thesis drill” assignment designed to help you become more familiar with the process of writing thesis statements quickly. Using a timer, brainstorm five possible thesis statements for the prompt in 10 minutes or less.

**Document-Based Question**

1. Evaluate the relative importance of different causes for military confrontations between British colonists and Native Americans in the period from 1607 to 1754.

(1)

*Write or type your response in this area.*

(2)

*Write or type your response in this area.*

(3)

*Write or type your response in this area.*

(4)

*Write or type your response in this area.*

(5)

*Write or type your response in this area.*

**The Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson****STUDENT HANDOUT****Historical Situation:**

*The passage describes a conflict between Native Americans and English settlers during King Philip's War. The conflict was largely a result of European encroachment into Native American lands in New England. The war resulted in high casualties for both sides, with some historians putting the estimate as high as one casualty for every 10 participants.*

**Audience:**

*The audience of this passage is Christian European settlers, much like Mary Rowlandson herself, who would have been inspired by a woman who kept her Christian faith alive in difficult circumstances. This kind of sensationalized captivity narrative became very popular on both sides of the Atlantic because it combined a sense of adventure, danger, and faith.*

**Point of View:**

*This text is written from the point of view of a devout Christian Puritan woman who understood her experience as a prisoner of war as a test of her faith. She frames her experience as a religious test, which gives her comfort during difficult experiences.*

**Purpose:**

*The purpose of this document is to tell Mary Rowlandson's version of events during her captivity. Her use of Biblical passages suggests that it was intended to act as a kind of spiritual guide to other Christians, potentially Puritans like herself, who would be inspired by the story of a religious woman.*

**Y:**

*This document is historically significant because its unique point of view demonstrates how European settlers framed their interactions with Native Americans. The relationships between Europeans and Native Americans were complicated, with constantly shifting boundaries. In this passage, Rowlandson's ideas change with time, representing how the relationship between Native Americans and Europeans was constantly shifting.*

## HOMEWORK

1. Military confrontations between British colonists and Native Americans in the period from 1607 to 1754 were caused by many different factors, but the most prominent was a callous European disregard for Native American sovereignty over political matters, resource management, and land.
2. The military confrontations between the British colonists and the Native Americans in the period from 1607 to 1754 were primarily a result of European economics because the settlers pushed further into Native American land and claimed authority over natural resources in order to increase profits for European joint stock companies back in Europe.
3. Fundamentally different approaches to political boundaries led to military confrontations between British colonists and Native Americans in the period from 1607 to 1754 because colonists refused to recognize the political structures used by Native Americans in New England or to uphold treaties negotiated with those communities.
4. While the military confrontations between British colonists and Native Americans in the period 1607 to 1754 arguably had many causes, the most significant cause was conflict over land. European settlers saw the land in the Americas as something that could be seized and claimed for European powers, and they disregarded Native American claims, traditions, and political networks.
5. British conflicts with Native Americans were ultimately rooted in differing opinions about resource management. The British approached the Americas as a source of profit that could be mined, extracted, and otherwise stripped from the land, while Native Americans were not focused on extracting natural materials for a profit. This difference led to inescapable conflicts over land, resources, and politics.